
**VANDENBERG AIR FORCE BASE
INSTALLATION RESTORATION PROGRAM
COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD
VANDENBERG CENTER, BUILDING 11008
29 NOVEMBER 2001**

Ms. Beatrice Kephart, Chief, Environmental Restoration, called the Vandenberg Air Force Base (AFB) Community Advisory Board (CAB) meeting to order at 1000 hours. Ms. Kephart presented the meeting's agenda:

- Installation Restoration Program Overview,
- New Member Applicants,
- Toxicity Reference Values/Ecological Risk Update,
- Site 60 Remedial Action, and
- Member Questions/Comments.

Installation Restoration Program Overview

Ms. Kephart provided the CAB with an overview of the Installation Restoration Program's (IRP) activities. Currently, the base is waiting to receive FY02 funding. IRP projects are already scheduled and when funding is received, these projects will be awarded. The amount of funding expected for this fiscal year is \$8M, as we have received in the past two years. A poster developed by Tetra Tech, Inc. depicting site cleanup progress and closures was presented at the CAB. This poster will be updated and revised throughout the year as projects advance through the cleanup process.

New Member Applicants

Mr. Ron MacLelland discussed new CAB membership. Recent CAB member departures resulted in CAB vacancies. Three individuals applied for and received CAB membership: Ms. Sharon Conley, Mr. Ron Fink, and Mr. James MacKenzie. Vandenberg AFB and the CAB welcomed the new CAB members.

Toxicity Reference Values/Ecological Risk Update

Mr. Mike McElligott provided an update on the Senior Executive Committee (SEC) meeting. The SEC met on 1 and 2 October 2001 to reach agreement on issues related to toxicity reference values (TRVs) that are used to evaluate the potential for ecological risks at Vandenberg AFB. Mr. McElligott was pleased to report that agreement was reached on all outstanding TRV-related issues. All three SEC members signed a cooperative agreement: U.S. Air Force, Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), and Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB).

The SEC agreed to a process wherein a third party panel of experts will select TRVs that are scientifically valid and defensible, protective, and appropriate for Vandenberg AFB predictive ecological risk assessments. Dr. Barry Wilson, a professor emeritus from the University of California at Davis who is proficient in dealing with environmental toxicology issues, will chair this expert panel. The Expert Panel Chair will select two additional members to assist in the independent review and selection of TRVs. Vandenberg AFB and DTSC are cooperatively developing a statement of work for the Expert Panel review of TRVs. DTSC will also provide a schedule for the review of TRVs for which there is no Draft BTAG TRVs.

Site 60 Remedial Action

Mr. Mark Miller, IT Corporation, updated the CAB on Site 60, a former fueling station for GSA vehicles located near Vandenberg's South Gate. A site assessment identified leaks from associated piping and pump islands at this site. Tanks were removed in 1995 along with fuel-impacted soil. The remaining source area contamination from the leak is associated with dissolved methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE)

in the groundwater. MTBE is a chemical that is used as a fuel additive in California. The state of California added MTBE to fuel to reduce air emissions, however, the chemical is very soluble in water.

At Site 60, the shallow groundwater rises during the wet season dissolving the MTBE. When this happens, MTBE, being soluble in water tends to migrate faster in groundwater. Vandenberg and the California Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) are concerned that the MTBE will migrate to the Santa Ynez River and the Pacific Ocean. Mr. Miller showed a schematic of the area of concern and the plume of contamination.

Currently, remedial actions have included the installation of a Permeable Reactive Barrier (PRB) and a Groundwater Circulation System (GCS). These systems use oxygen to enhance the natural biodegradation of MTBE by indigenous bacteria. The system performance will be monitored by up gradient and down gradient monitoring wells. Mr. Miller showed several slides that described the construction and functionality of the PRB and the GCS systems.

Next, Mr. Miller presented a Site 60 construction schedule. Construction of the PRB and GSC is scheduled to take place December 3, 2001 to January 2002. The systems startup testing will take place in February 2002, and normal system operations and maintenance is scheduled for March 2002 to March 2003. The evaluation of the remedial systems effectiveness will take place after one year of operations and maintenance.

Member Questions/Comments

Dr. Fargo suggested forming a review subcommittee and asked for volunteers interested in reviewing IRP documents. Subcommittee members would meet separately to review documents and consolidate their questions for the IRP staff. Dr. Fargo agreed to chair the subcommittee and three other CAB members volunteered to join, Mr. James MacKenzie, Mr. Rick Skillin, and Mr. Ron Fink. Dr. Fargo also suggested that CAB members meet for lunch after the meetings to get acquainted.

Col Kopp presented a special farewell to Mike McElligott during his closing remarks. Mr. McElligott has accepted a position in Guam and will be leaving 30 CES/CEVR in January. Col Kopp presented Mr. McElligott with a Commander's Coin for his superior performance at Vandenberg.

Mr. Ron Fink asked if topics such as the Snowy Plover Recovery Plan and the Gaviota National Seashore Initiative could be addressed at a future CAB meeting. Ms. Kephart stated she would coordinate with Ms. Nancy Reed, a wildlife biologist in VAFB's Natural Resources Section, to provide a snowy plover update at the next meeting. She also reminded the CAB to call the IRP office with ideas and topics they would like added to the next CAB agenda.

Ms. Kim Foreman, Public Participation Specialist, DTSC, complemented the Vandenberg CAB for their enthusiasm and attendance. She mentioned that other CABs are not as well organized and eager to participate in the cleanup process.

The meeting was adjourned at 1200. The next CAB meeting is tentatively scheduled for February 2002.